January 27, 1964

Mr. Henry Suydam
LIFE Bureau Chief
1120 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Henry:

Reference is made to your letter of January 7, 1964, concerning the two copies of the Zapruder assassination film now in the hands of the Secret Service.

I find that Mr. Sorrels of our Dallas office, after learning of the existence of the film, called upon Mr. Zapruder in his office, at which time Mr. Zapruder agreed to furnish him with a copy of the film with the understanding that it was strictly for official use of the Secret Service and that it would not be shown or given to any newspapers or magazines, as Mr. Zapruder expected to sell the film.

Mr. Sorrels ascertained that Eastman Kodak Company in Dallas would develop the film immediately. Mr. Sorrels then took Mr. Zapruder to Eastman Kodak where arrangements were made to have the film developed and copies made. Afterward, Mr. Zapruder, in his office, furnished Mr. Sorrels two copies of the film and we received them before Mr. Zapruder had sold the original film.

We, of course, have no knowledge concerning Life's later arrangement with Mr. Zapruder; however, when we received the film from Mr. Zapruder he again specified that it was for Government use. The film has not been shown to anyone outside the Secret Service, except to members of the staff of the President's Commission on the Assassination.

Please be assured that it will not be shown by us to anyone outside the Government unless for official investigative purposes. However, we consider it part of the official Secret Service file of the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

James J. Rowley

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